GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3416
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
DAMAGE LOSS OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the damage/loss suffered by various telephone exchanges in Gujarat/Maharashtra due to recent flood;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the amount of loss to the exchequer;

(d) the number of days telecom facilities remained out of order in these State; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring normalcy in telecom sector as early as possible?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir. The assessment of damage/loss suffered by Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat has made. But the assessment of damage/loss suffered by Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra has not been done as the restoration work is still going on.

(b) Total 248 Telephone Exchanges and 89 Mobile BTSs were affected by flood in Gujarat. In Mumbai, 51 Exchanges and 176 GSM base station and 25 CDMA base station were affected. In rest of Maharashtra, 298 telephone exchanges and 170 Mobile BTSs of BSNL have been affected so far.

(c) The amount of loss occurred in Gujarat is estimated to be around Rs.21.62 crores. The assessment of loss in Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra has not been done as the restoration work is still going on.

(d) Telecom facilities were affected in Gujarat from 26.6.2005 to 11.7.2005. The services in Mumbai were mainly affected from 26.7.2005 to 3.8.2005. In rest of Maharashtra, the telecom service were affected from 25.7.2005 to 11.8.2005. However, restoration of cable fault due to heavy rain in some parts of Mumbai and restoration of 8 telephone exchanges in rest of Maharashtra is in progress.

(e) Most of the restoration work is already over. However, a close watch is being kept on the progress of restoration work at Circle level, Corporate Office level and at the Ministry level.